

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AF-08 OPIC-03 SAM-01 SAJ-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 /099 W

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R 161412Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

/DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5552

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO

SUBJ: PROSPECTS FOR PORTUGUESE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC

REF: LISBON 4618 (DTG 091610Z JUL 76)

SUMMARY: PROSPECTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND THE PRC HAVE IMPROVED AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT VISIT BY A SEMI-OFFICIAL PORTUGUESE DELEGATION. BUT THE COMMENTS BY ONE OF THE DELEGATION MEMBERS INDICATE THAT THE FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC IS NOT JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

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END SUMMARY.

1. A PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST'S VIEW OF THE PRC: ALVARO GUERRA, A JOURNALIST AND LONG-TIME SOCIALIST PARTY ACTIVIST, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A THREE-WEEK VISIT TO THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA. HE FORMED PART OF A SEVEN-MEMBER SEMI-OFFICIAL PORTUGUESE DELEGATION. HIS COMMENTS ON THE TRIP, MADE TO AN EMBOFF ON AUG 12, ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW:

-- STEPS TOWARDS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS: PROSPECTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND THE PRC HAVE IMPROVED AS A RESULT OF THE VISIT. THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION CARRIED A GOP INVITATION TO THE CHINESE TO VISIT PORTUGAL. THE TYPE OF RETURN VISIT -- COMMERCIAL, CULTURAL, SPORTS -- AND ITS TIMING WERE LEFT TO THE CHINESE. THEY HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED. THE GOP IS ANXIOUS TO MOVE; IT HAS BEEN FOR SOMETIME, BUT THE CHINESE TAKE AN EXTREMELY LONG VIEW OF HISTORY. THEY ARE METICULOUS. THEY MOVE A STEP AT A TIME. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT, THEREFORE, HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE TO ESTABLISH FORMAL RELATIONS.

-- SEMI-OFFICIAL STATUS OF DELEGATION: THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION HAD "SPECIAL STATUS." THE INCLUSION OF MILITARY MEN PARTICULARLY LTC HUGO DOS SANTOS WHO IS CLOSE TO PRESIDENT EANES, DID NOT GO UNNOTICED BY THE CHINESE. DOS SANTOS WAS RECEIVED BY THE PRC VICE FOREIGN MINISTER. THE BALANCED POLITICAL PARTY PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE THREE LEADING DIPLOMATIC PARTIES, ADDED TO THE VISIT'S IMPACT.

-- USSR STILL THE PRINCIPAL ENEMY: THE CHINESE ANIMOSITY TOWARDS THE SOVIET UNION IS OMNIPRESENT. THE USSR IS THE PRINCIPAL ENEMY, THE MAJOR DRIVING FORCE OF IMPERIALISM. CHINESE GUIDES TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN RECITING DETAILS OF SOVIET DUPLICITY.

-- INFORMATION ON PORTUGAL IMPROVING: THE CHINESE ARE MUCH BETTER INFORMED ABOUT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL THAN IS GENERALLY BELIEVED. THEY HAVE CHANNELS OF INFORMATION OTHER THAN THE PCP-ML. THIS IMPROVES PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVED GOP-PRC RELATIONS.

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2. COMMENT: GUERRA'S COMMENTS INDICATE THAT, DESPITE GOP WISHES, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC ARE NOT JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
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